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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KIDS DAY TEACHES CHILDREN TO LIVE WITH DISABILITIES INTRODUCES ADAPTIVE SPORTS, RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

SPOKANE, WASH. – May 14, 2009 – On Friday, July 17, area children with physical disabilities will have a chance to meet some world-class wheelchair athletes, learn about living with disabilities and compete in wheelchair sports during Kids Day 2009.

The special event takes place at Spokane Falls Community College, in Spokane from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. It is part of the 29th National Veterans Wheelchair Games, being held in Spokane July 13 – 18.

Kids Day 2009 offers children with physical disabilities the opportunity to interact, and participate in several athletic events including T-ball, basketball and wheelchair slalom, under the guidance of experienced wheelchair athletes competing in this year's National Veterans Wheelchair Games. Under the watchful eyes of the athlete mentors, the children will enjoy both interactive and educational activities.

Each year, Kids Day introduces the exciting world of adaptive sports and recreation to children with physical disabilities. At the conclusion of a fun-filled afternoon, a special closing ceremony will take place where the athletes will present the children with their own medals for participating in Kids Day.

Spokane area children ages 6 to 16 years old are invited to participate. The event is free. Parents can register their child by contacting either Suzanne Bennatt at (509) 434-7670 or by e-mail at Suzanne.Bennatt@va.gov; or Sheila Skipper at (800) 424-8200, e-mail sheilas@pva.org.

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Wheelchair Games 2/2/2/2

More than 500 veterans are expected to compete in the 29th National Veterans Wheelchair Games, the largest annual wheelchair sports competition in the world. Athletes come from across the United States, Puerto Rico and Great Britain, and represent veterans who have served from World War II to Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. Among the featured 17 competitive events are handcycling, quad rugby, basketball, weightlifting, track, field and softball.

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The Games are presented by the Department of Veterans Affairs and Paralyzed Veterans of America. The Spokane VA Medical Center and PVA's Northwest Chapter are hosting the Games. For more information, contact Matthew R. Allen at (509) 434-7000, ext. 6205; or Matthew.Allen2@va.gov. The Games Web site is www.wheelchairgames.va.gov.